

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /010 W

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R 130940Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3488

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 0214

FOR NEA/ATHERTON, NEA/EX WILLIAMSON AND NEA/ARN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFPS, JO

SUBJ: COMMERCIAL OFFICE MOVE

1. I WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST EXPEDITIOUS CONSIDERATION OF THE EMBASSY REQUEST FOR FUNDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMERCIAL OFFICE IN AMMAN.

2. I UNDERSTAND FROM STATE 284100 AND FROM THE LINDER-JONES TELECON THAT THERE ARE TWO PRE-CONDITIONS FOR DEPARTMENT APPROVAL OF THE MOVE. THE FIRST IS EVIDENCE FOR EMBASSY COMPLIANCE WITH FS INSPECTORS' RECOMMENDATION NR 90.

3. THE EMBASSY IS FORWARDING BY SEPTTEL A TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY OF OUR DETAILED MEMORANDUM (ALSO FORWARDED BY POUCH ATTN: NEA/ARN - MR. WARD) DESCRIBING THE PROPOSED TRANSFER. THE POST HAS ALSO COMPLIED WITH THE OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS (NR 89 AND 91) REGARDING RESPECTIVELY ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMBINED ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL BRANCH AND THE CONDUCT OF AN ANNUAL REVIEW OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF A WORK PLAN TO ESTABLISH GOALS, PRIORITIES AND PROCEDURES TO GUIDE ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL WORK. THESE WILL BE FORWARDED TO DEPARTMENT (NEA/ARN) AS PART OF COMPLIANCE RESPONSES.

4. MY STAFF AND I HAVE DEVOTED A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF TIME TO REORGANIZING THE WORK OF THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION. IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT THE TRANSFER OF THE COMMERCIAL FUNCTION DOWNTOWN IS CENTRAL TO OBTAINING THE OBJECTIVES UNDERLYING THE
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INSPECTORS' RECOMMENDATION. THE GREATLY INCREASED AND MORE

EFFICIENT CONTACT WITH THE JORDANIAN COMMERCIAL SECTOR RESULTING FROM A DOWNTOWN LOCATION IS BEING UNDERLINE SINE QUA NON END UNDERLINE FOR EFFECTIVE OPERATION; IT WAS ONLY AS A RESULT OF THE 1970 JORDANIAN CIVIL WAR THAT THIS FUNCTION WAS PULLED INTO THE EMBASSY, TO THE DETRIMENT OF OUR COMMERCIAL WORK. COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDEAST ARE MOVING WITH BREAKNECK SPEED AND FOR THIS REASON WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO MOVE QUICKLY ON THE PROPOSED TRANSFER. THE URGENT CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO THE TRIANGULAR INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES, THE IMPENDING FORMATION OF AN INVESTMENT-TRADE COMPONENT IN THE US-JORDANIAN JOINT COMMISSION FRAMEWORK AND THE FORTHCOMING OPIC MISSION--ALL THESE IN OUR JUDGEMENT ARE GOING TO REQUIRE THAT WE BUILD THE KIND OF INTIMATE CONTACT WITH THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR THAT WITH PRESENT RESOURCES CAN BEST BE ACCOMPLISHED BY A MOVE DOWNTOWN OF OUR COMMERCIAL FUNCTION.

5. THE DEPARTMENT ALSO STATED IN STATE 284100 THAT IT PREFERRED TO DEFER CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING COMMERCIAL MOVE "UNTIL WE HAVE DETERMINED EFFECT FBIS REIMBURSEMENT WILL HAVE ON OUR ABILITY TO FUND MOVE". FBIS HAS PROVIDED US WITH OPEN ALLOTMENT OF \$25,000 BUT THIS WILL BE USED FOR MOVING FBIS AND FOR REMODELLING CHANCERY TO ACCOMMODATE MOVE. IT WILL NOT HOWEVER FUND COST OF RENTAL OR OF PROVIDING NEW FURNISHING FOR COMMERCIAL OFFICE WHICH WILL COST \$10,000 AND WHICH WE DO NOT SEE AS EXPENSES WE CAN JUSTIFIABLY ASK FBIS TO FUND. ON THE OTHER HAND, EMBASSY WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FBIS ESTABLISHMENT TO UNDERTAKE REMODELING WHICH OTHERWISE WOULD BE A CHARGE TO EMBASSY BUDGET, SUCH AS RELOCATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF UNCLASSIFIED MAILROOM, REMODELING AND IMPROVING TOILET FACILITIES, RELOCATING AND IMPROVEMENT OF SNACK BAR, ESTABLISHING TWO NEW OFFICES IN CHANCERY FOR COMMERCIAL SECTION (IN ADDITION TO OUTSIDE OFFICES) AND ALL OF THE SECONDARY OFFICE MOVES, REMODELING AND REPAINTING THAT WILL BE NECESSARY.

6. WE NOW HAVE URGENT REQUIREMENT TO RELOCATE COMMERCIAL SECTION WHOSE OFFICES ARE BEING OCCUPIED BY FBIS, WHICH EMBASSY IS REQUIRED TO ACCOMMODATE BY FEBRUARY 15. IT WILL REQUIRE IMMEDIATE DISPLACEMENT OF COMMERCIAL SECTION. THERE IS ALSO NO REALLY FEASIBLE AREA FOR TEMPORARY RELOCATION AND RATHER THAN

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GO THROUGH STRAIN AND LOSS OF EFFICIENCY CONNECTED WITH TEMPORARY STOPGAPS WE FAR PREFER TO MOVE COMMERCIAL OFFICE DOWNTOWN RIGHT AWAY. FRANKLY, CHANCERY WILL BE CRAMPED WITH FBIS SPACE REQUIREMENT AND WE ALSO NEED TO MOVE COMMERCIAL OFFICE DOWNTOWN TO RELIEVE THE CONGESTION.

7. DEPARTMENT IS AWARE OF SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS THAT

ACCOMMODATING FBIS IS CAUSING EMBASSY AND WE WERE
ASSURED OF DEPARTMENT'S SYMPATHETIC RESPONSE TO THIS
SITUATION. IN BRIEF, WE NEED TO MOVE COMMERCIAL OFFICES
TO ACCOMMODATE THIS MOVE AND IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY IN-
CONVENIENT AND ALSO DESTRUCTIVE OF OUR OBJECTIVES FOR
RESTRUCTURED ECON-COMMERCIAL FUNCTION AS RECOMMENDED BY
INSPECTOR TO DELAY OUR MOVE IN THIS SITUATION. I WOULD
THEREFORE REQUEST DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL ASAP OF \$10,000
AS REQUESTED IN AMMAN 7658.
PICKERING

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